(b) Rural water supply is a State subject and State Governments/ its agencies are primarily responsible for water supply in rural areas. After 73rd Amendment in the Constitution of India, rural water supply has been placed in the 11th Schedule of the Constitution and is to be transferred to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). To ensure availability of potable drinking water in all rural habitations within a timeframe, under Bharat Nirman launched in 2005-06 to be implemented in four years, rural drinking water has been included as one of the components. Under Bharat Nirman - rural drinking water component, in 2005-06, against the target of 56,270 habitations, 97,215 habitations have been covered. In 2006-07, against the target of 73,120 habitations, 107,350 habitations have been covered. In 2007-08, against the target of 155,499 habitations, 180,788 habitations have been covered/ addressed for quality problems. Prior to Bharat Nirman, in 2004-05, 69,639 habitations were covered. As per Bharat Nirman target, all the remaining habitations are planned to be covered/ addressed by the end of 2008-09. To achieve the target within the stipulated timeframe, the Government of India has increased the funding under ARWSP from Rs. 2,930.78 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 4,098.03 crore in 2005-06, Rs. 4,560.00 crore in 2006-07 and Rs. 6,441.63 crore in 2007-08. In 2008-09, Rs. 7,300 crore has been provided in the budget for rural water supply, out of which Rs. 4,279.22 crore have been utilized till September, 2008.

Shortage of fund to implement NREGS

†595.SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had to face financial crisis for implementation of Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the mid of financial year 2008-09;

(b) if so, the amount of funds that were required at that time;

(c) the reasons for financial crisis for above scheme; and

(d) the measures taken to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Toilet facilities for schools in the country

596. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre proposes to cover all the schools in the country with toilet facilities by the end of 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) the status of Orissa and Jharkhand States so far as provision of the above facilities in their schools is concerned;

(d) whether the above schools will also be covered with potable water facilities during the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time-frame within which the schools located in Orissa and Jharkhand would be provided with the above facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government of India proposes to cover all the rural schools in the country with toilet facilities under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). In all, 590 TSC projects are under implementation in the rural districts across the country, with a provision of 11.88 lakh toilet units in all the schools, of which 6.88 lakh units are reported to be completed. This includes provision of separate toilet units for girls in all co-educational schools.

(c) In Orissa, 70,663 school toilet units have been approved, of which 39,601 are reported complete. In Jharkhand, 42,687 school toilet units have been approved, of which 26,331 are reported complete.

(d) and (e) Under Bharat Nirman, all uncovered, slipped-back and quality-affected habitations in the country are to be covered/ addressed with facilities for potable drinking water, including schools in these habitations. The Bharat Nirman covers all the districts including those in Orissa and Jharkhand.

Social audit of rural development programmes

†597.SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the Rajasthan model of social-audit of rural development programme; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider to implement the processes of creating more accountability in it at all India level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Social audit, Public Vigilance, transparency and accountability are important elements and processes already incorporated in rural development programmes, particularly in National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). Keeping in view guidelines of this Ministry, the Government of Rajasthan has brought out a manual of social audit for all rural development programmes. The manual on social audit has been drawn from the provisions contained in National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) guidelines. The National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) has also brought out a manual on social audit which incorporates best practices of Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan and provisions of NREGA Guidelines. In this regard, the Government of India has also facilitated Peer Learning workshops. The social audit which is already under implementation, is an important tool to bring about transparency and accountability in implementation of R.D. Programmes.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi